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Lee D/C

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 65522

Date: 30 November 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant (s): Williams
Application No.: 09/266,298
Filed: March 11, 1999
For: COLLATING DEVICE
Group Art Unit: 3651
Examiner: Patrick Mackey

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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11/30/00 Jan P. Kins
Date Registration No. 35,234
Attorney for Applicant (s)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks

ATTENTION: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated 31 July 2000 please amend
the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7:

1. (Once amended) A collating device for sheet material comprising
a collating station having a pair of guide members for receiving sheets
to be collated through an opening therebetween, first conveyor means
for conveying sheets consecutively into the collating station and
second conveyor means for conveying a collated stack of sheets out of
the collating station, support means comprising a flexible member
biased towards a position for supporting sheets in the collating
station away from the second conveyor means in a position between the
first conveyor means and the second conveyor means, and an actuator
member movable to urge a collated stack of sheets towards the second
conveyor means against and to overcome the bias of the support means.

2. (Once amended) A collating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein
the [support means is a] flexible member is mounted adjacent the
opening between the guide members.

3. (Once amended) A collating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein

12/05/2000 CCHAUI 00000060 09266298

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Repln. Ref: 12/05/2000 CCHAUI 0010443700
DAH:061135 Name/Number:09266298
FC: 704 \$80.00 CR.

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